

There is one noticeable mis-spelling in the caption describing the Grayson's ligaments where his name is spelt Gayson, which possibly implies something quite different!

When discussing congenital anomalies the term *camptodactyly* is used. The correct adjective for a congenitally flexed finger is *campylodactyly*. Also in the chapter on congenital anomalies, the term amputation is used when there are nubbins of rudimentary digits present. Possibly the term amputation here gives the wrong impression.

This is a well presented, most readable book which is beautifully illustrated and there are full references, and it certainly deserves a place in the literature concerning hand injuries. It would have been even better with a little more attention to detail and accuracy.

HUGH G. BROWN

Septo- and Rhinoplasty. By Finn Jeppesen. First Edition. Pp. 200 with 250 illustrations. (Copenhagen: Munksgaard, 1986). Price D.kr 350.

We are told in the foreword to this book that "it offers an excellent introduction to nasal surgery, can be used as a step-by-step 'cook book' before the operation and is extremely recommended to all ear, nose and throat surgeons". The author, Finn Jeppesen, does not vouchsafe to the reader what his position is and therefore it is difficult to know with what authority he writes upon the subject under consideration.

The book abounds with illustrations and detailed consideration of various aspects of nasal deformity and pathology, which are disconnected and do not form part of a step-by-step guide. The operation of septorhinoplasty is one of the most difficult in surgery, shrouded in difficulties and abounding with pitfalls. Regrettably, this book does nothing to illumine the gloom or to protect and guide the unwary.

There are available many books which treat this topic in a more satisfactory and helpful manner. To someone with a fair amount of experience with these procedures, it is difficult to follow, and for anyone lacking experience it is a recipe for confusion.

J. P. BENNETT

Early Treatment of Cleft Lip and Palate. Edited by M. Hotz, W. Gnoinski, M. Perko, H. Nussbaumer, E. Hof and R. Haubensak. Pp. 323 with 75 illustrations and 45 tables. (Toronto, Lewiston, New York, Bern, Stuttgart: Hans Huber, 1986). Price SFr 88.

This is a report of the proceedings of the 1984 Zürich Symposium with this title. It was the third of a series of similar meetings, the first of which was held in 1964, in which invited groups of experts in cleft lip and palate from around the world have discussed the current state of the art. On this occasion thirty-six centres were represented, three of which were from the United Kingdom.

The symposium started with a series of workshop sessions in which participants presented their experience and in particular how and why their management had changed over the last 20 years. The workshops were followed by panel discussions and summaries by the moderators of the sessions, all of which are recorded in full. This is the most interesting part of the book; all the techniques described have been reported elsewhere but it is very instructive to discover, with a little reading between the lines, whose work has made a deep impression on his colleagues and whose confident presentation disintegrated under interrogation.

A list of references accompanies each paper and there is a useful summary of the treatment regimens of every participating unit. The book is marred only by some appalling illustrations.

The topics addressed are mostly familiar and are almost entirely concerned with the effects of the timing and nature of surgery on maxillary growth, dentition and speech with little discussion of surgical detail. Some contributors have revised their enthusiasms and altered their practice since the first symposium, but not always in the same direction, and the variety of approaches remains bewildering. Nevertheless some trends are apparent. The Oslo technique of delayed bone grafting is clearly in the ascendancy and enthusiasm for late hard palate closure seems to be waning as poor speech results have become more widely recognised. Few participants other than the British and Australians still use a Veau-Wardill-Kilner pushback procedure. New approaches such as Malek's are described and Randall promotes Furlow's double reversing Z-plasty for soft palate closure, but it will be another twenty years before they can be properly evaluated.

This is an important book for those who are interested in the progress of cleft lip and palate surgery and the organisers of the meeting and the editors of the work must be congratulated on their achievements.

A. C. H. WATSON

An Anthology of Plastic Surgery. By Harry Hayes, Jr. Pp. xiii + 338, illustrated. (Maryland: Aspen Publishers Inc., 1986.) Price \$55.

Dr Hayes must have had fun gathering this collection of historical anecdotes, speculations, verse, paintings and other oddities, all of which have some connection with Plastic Surgery. Some of them come from original sources but most are from articles previously published in medical, and particularly plastic surgery, journals. Many are familiar but there will be something new to entertain or enlighten every reader. How many know, for example, that by an English Act of Parliament of 1649 (which has never been repealed) a marriage can be declared null and void and the woman declared a witch if she be convicted of betraying a man into matrimony by the use of "cosmetics . . . artificial teeth . . . high-heeled shoes and bolstered hips"? Could a plastic surgeon be declared an accessory to witchcraft? How many Scots know that Bonnie Prince Charlie had syndactyly or that the College from which this Journal is edited might, if someone had not slipped up, have the sole manufacturing rights of Scotch whisky? It makes a Fellow ponder on what might have been.

An anthology is, by its nature, a very mixed bag. One must admire the enthusiasm that so many surgeons have shown in exploring the byways of medical history. Much of the prose is of

high quality but, on the evidence here, plastic surgeons should steer clear of verse! On the whole, they would also be better to leave wit to the professionals. A piece by S. J. Perelman and a savage caricature by Rowlandson set a standard that makes most of the efforts by the amateurs rather embarrassing but there are three delightful cartoons by Hugo Kaunen of Joseph, Gillies and McIndoe at work.

This is a book to be browsed through at leisure. It will give a great deal of pleasure and allow the bluffer to adorn his lectures with the appearance of erudition. What better present could one give a plastic surgeon?

A. C. H. WATSON

Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. By Martin Hatt. Pp. X+166 with 544 illustrations. (Stuttgart & New York: Georg Thieme, 1986). Price DM 128.

This is a short textbook on the surgery of the eyelids and lachrymal apparatus by an ophthalmic surgeon working in Zürich.

The best section is that on the lachrymal drainage system, with good description of repair of injured canaliculi and of conjunctivo-dacro-cystostomy and conjunctivo-rhinostomy which are generally not well covered in other publications.

The section on the treatment of tumours would be considered unsatisfactory by those who have responsibility for teaching in plastic surgery departments.

Reconstruction of defects of the eyelids is dealt with rather briefly and the description of free graft techniques is less extensive than their importance requires.

I. F. K. MUIR

Overcoming Disfigurement. Defeating the problems—physical, social and emotional. By Doreen Trust. First Edition. Pp. 176, no illustrations. (Wellingborough: Thorson's Publishing Group, 1986). Price £5.99 paperback.

This book is one in the series of "Life Crisis" books, which addresses single topics on medical and paramedical subjects as diverse as "Coping with Cancer", "Divorce" and "Living with a Colostomy".

The author, Doreen Trust, has concentrated her life for the last 25 years on helping disfigured people. She speaks from a background of personal experience. She has had no formal medical teaching and this is evident in the parts of the book dealing with medical subjects, but in some respects this is an advantage when she draws on her own and other people's experience at the hands of the medical profession.

Written in a popular style, the book is in three parts. The first part is an introduction to the subject of disfigurement and stigma

but there is an exaggerated emphasis on the role of leprosy in the historical sections. Chapter 3 on medical attitudes and progress is a very brief history of plastic surgery which unfortunately concentrates on a small selection of named personalities rather than on the skills which have been developed.

Chapter 5 is important in the understanding of Mrs Trust's basic philosophy of a total approach to disfigurement. The best way to eliminate the prejudice against people with a stigma is to educate the whole population, starting in the schools. However, even with universal acceptance this is a tragically slow process and will require at least half a century of hard effort for the word to spread through the population. Unfortunately, the bigoted adults who would benefit most from this message of tolerance are not those who will read this book.

Part 2, "Guidelines", should be read by anyone with an interest in handling children with congenital defects. There are valuable hints for parents, grandparents, patients and the medical profession. Chapter 13, with advice for a patient about how to make progress in a consultation with the general practitioner and get referred for a specialist opinion, is particularly useful for the lay person.

The final part, "The cosmetic component", is very interesting, giving good practical tips in using camouflage preparations, and discusses problems. For example, if manual dexterity has been lost, as in old age, it is going to be impossible for the patient to use camouflage effectively. Chapter 16 has lessons in proper application but illustrations would have made this section more useful to the reader.

As camouflage is only applicable in 20% of patients, the proper discussion of other techniques such as surgery is sadly lacking in this book. However, the interested doctor will probably gain from reading it if only to find out what his patients are being told.

A. McG. MORRIS

Brachial Plexus Injuries. By Robert D. Leffert. Pp. ix + 243 with 173 figures and tables. (New York, Edinburgh, London, Melbourne: Churchill Livingstone, 1985). Price £48.

The author has set out to synthesise his ongoing experience of the care of brachial plexus injuries with the work of others in the field.

The section on Anatomy contains an excellent account of the variation in form of the brachial plexus and this is illustrated by classic descriptions. The chapter on Closed Injury discusses the varieties of mechanism of injury, the particular problem of the intra-clavicular plexus injury, clinical assessment and recording. There are chapters on Congenital Palsy, Post-Anaesthetic Palsy, Open Wounds of the Brachial Plexus and Radiation Neuropathy. Conservative and surgical managements and peripheral reconstruction are reviewed.

The reviews of the literature are excellent, as are the sections on diagnosis, investigation and reconstructive techniques. The microsurgical aspects of brachial plexus grafting are, however, not covered in great depth and microsurgical techniques are therefore not illustrated. Vascularised nerve grafting is not discussed.